in circulation at the end of March, 1997 are as under :

| Denomination | Currency notes | Coins (in million pieces) |
|---|---|---|
| Re. 1 | 3201 | 8960 |
| Rs. 2 | 2765 | 1444 |
| Rs. 5 | 3480 | 963 |
| Rs. 10 | 10056 | – |
| Rs. 20 | 378 | – |
| Rs. 50 | 7122 | – |
| Rs. 100 | 6081 | – |
| Rs. 500 | 495 | – |

(b) The Reserve Bank of India monitors the position of currency notes and coins in different denominations.

(c) There is a general shortage of currency notes and coins of various denominations due to the limited production currency of note printing presses and mints.

(d) The note printing presses at Dewas and Nasik are being modernised to augment their capacity. The Reserve Bank of India has set up its own note printing presses at Mysore (Karnataka) and Salbani (West Bengal). With the modernisation of the Government presses at Nasik and Dewas and full capacity production at the RBI prasses at Mysore and Salbani by the year 1998-99, the supply position of notes will improve considerably. Reserve Bank of India is also, as a one-time masure, getting currency notes (Rs.100-2000 million pieces and Rs. 500-1600 million pieces) printed abroad to meet the demand-supply gap till the year 2000. Government mints at Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumabi are being modernised. The supply position of coins will improve after modernisation by March, 1998. Government has decided to import coins (Re. 1 - 700 million pieces and Rs. 2- 300 million pieces) to improve supply position.

**Indiana in Kuwait and Iraq Jails**

*450. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in jails of Kuwait and Iraq as a result of Gulf war between them;

(b) the details of charges against these Indians; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken bbbby Government to get these Indians released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Right to Information**

*452. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group constituted by the Government to study the issues connected with the right to infomation and promoting open and transparent Government, has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government;

(d) the steps being taken to implement these recommendations;

(e) whether the Chairperson of the Press Council has also drafted a Bill for right to information and whether the draft has been sent to the Government; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

(e) and (f) A draft Bill on Right to Information received from the Chairperson of the Press Council was made available to the Working Group on Right to Information for consideration during its deliberations.

**Violation of Customs Rules**

*453. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreigners arrested in India during the last two years and upto March, 1997 for violating customs rules and smuggling;

(b) the names of the countries to which these foreigners belonged;

(c) the corresponding figures for the years 1994 and 1995; and

(d) the details fo the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) :(a) to (d) 372 foreigners were arrested in India during the last two years and upto March, 1997 for violating Customs Rules including smuggling. 196 & 168 foreigners were arrested in the year 1994 & 1995 respectively for similar violations.

The arrested foreigners belong to various countries including Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Holland, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Myanmar, Malaysia,